

Amendments To Claims

1. (Amended) A method for generating a pixel-oriented graph, comprising ~~the steps of~~:

determining a visual boundary for representing an aggregate of a set of information values of a variable depicted in the pixel-oriented graph;

constructing a set of pixel blocks that represent the information values such that the pixel blocks are visually distinguished by the visual boundary, each pixel block having a set of pixels each pixel having a pixel value that visually represents one of the values of the variable.

2. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the step of~~ determining a visual boundary includes ~~the step of~~ obtaining a selection of the aggregate from a user.

3. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the step of~~ determining a visual boundary comprises ~~the step of~~ determining a location for a line in the pixel-oriented graph in response to the aggregate.

4. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the step of~~ determining a visual boundary comprises ~~the step of~~ determining a location for an area in the pixel-oriented graph in response to the aggregate.

5. (Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein ~~the step of~~ determining a location for an area comprises ~~the step of~~ determining a location for a rectangle.

6. (Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein ~~the step of~~ determining a location for an area comprises ~~the step of~~ determining a location for a circle.

7. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the step of~~ determining a visual boundary comprises ~~the step of~~ determining a location for a curve in the pixel-oriented graph in response to the aggregate.

8. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the step of~~ constructing a set of pixel blocks comprises ~~the step of~~ determining a set of pixel blocks to be positioned above the visual boundary and a set of pixel blocks to be positioned below the visual boundary.

9. (Amended) (Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising ~~the step of~~ filling in one or more gaps in the pixel blocks by replicating one or more pixels in the pixel blocks.

10. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the step of~~ determining a visual boundary comprises ~~the step of~~ obtaining a user selection of the visual boundary.

11. (Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising ~~the step of~~ coloring the visual boundary.

12. (Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising ~~the step of~~ applying a weight to the visual boundary that indicates a relative importance of the aggregate.

13. (Amended) A data analysis system, comprising:
data store for holding a set of ~~information~~ values of a variable;
display for providing a pixel-oriented graph that represents the ~~information~~ values;
graph generator that obtains the ~~information~~ values from the data store and that determines a visual boundary for representing an aggregate of the ~~information~~ values and that

constructs a set of pixel blocks that represent the information values such that the pixel blocks are visually distinguished by the visual boundary, each pixel block having a set of pixels each pixel having a pixel value that visually represents one of the values of the variable.

14. The data analysis system of claim 13, wherein the graph generator obtains a selection of the aggregate from a user.

15. The data analysis system of claim 13, wherein the graph generator constructs the pixel blocks by determining a set of pixel blocks to be positioned above the visual boundary and a set of pixel blocks to be positioned below the visual boundary.

16. The data analysis system of claim 13, wherein the graph generator fills in one or more gaps in the pixel blocks by replicating one or more pixels in the pixel blocks.

17. The data analysis system of claim 13, wherein the graph generator obtains a selection of the visual boundary from a user.

18. The data analysis system of claim 13, wherein the graph generator colors the visual boundary.

19. The data analysis system of claim 13, wherein the graph generator applies a weight to the visual boundary that indicates a relative importance of the aggregate.

20. (Amended) A computer-readable storage medium that contains a computer program that when executed generates a pixel-oriented graph by determining a visual boundary for representing an aggregate of a set of information values of a variable depicted in the pixel-oriented graph and constructing

a set of pixel blocks that represent the ~~information~~ values such that the pixel blocks are visually distinguished by the visual boundary, each pixel block having a set of pixels each pixel having a pixel value that visually represents one of the values of the variable.

21. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 20, wherein determining a visual boundary includes obtaining a selection of the aggregate from a user.

22. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 20, wherein constructing a set of pixel blocks comprises determining a set of pixel blocks to be positioned above the visual boundary and a set of pixel blocks to be positioned below the visual boundary.

23. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 20, further comprising filling in one or more gaps in the pixel blocks by replicating one or more pixels in the pixel blocks.

24. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 20, further comprising coloring the visual boundary.

25. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 20, further comprising applying a weight to the visual boundary that indicates a relative importance of the aggregate.